

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A pressure attenuation shield for attenuating a pressure blast and shielding a structure, the shield comprising:
a spray of attenuation material disposed proximate a periphery of the structure and between an origination of the pressure blast and the structure such that the shield attenuates the pressure blast by at least about 14.7 psi within a thickness of less than about 1 meter of the spray,
wherein the attenuation material is disposed as particulates having an average size of between about 0.01 mm and 1.0 mm.
2. (Original) A pressure attenuation shield according to Claim 1 wherein the shield extends substantially vertically and horizontally about at least a portion of the structure.
3. (Original) A pressure attenuation shield according to Claim 1 wherein said attenuation material comprises water droplets having an average size of between about 0.01 mm and 1.0 mm.
4. (Original) A pressure attenuation shield according to Claim 1 wherein said attenuation material comprises solid particles of at least one of the group consisting of sand and polystyrene.
5. (Original) A pressure attenuation shield according to Claim 1 wherein said attenuation material comprises gaseous bubbles and said shield extends through a liquid medium.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) A pressure attenuation shield according to Claim 1 wherein a three dimensional packing factor of said attenuation material is between about 0.001 and 0.01.

8. (Original) A pressure attenuation shield according to Claim 1 wherein a three dimensional packing factor of said attenuation material is non-uniform across a thickness of the shield and generally increases in a direction from the origination toward the structure.

9. (Currently amended) A method of attenuating a pressure blast to shield a protected area, the method comprising:

detecting a threat of a pressure blast; and

in response to the threat, spraying particulates to form a shield extending between an origination of the pressure blast and the protected area such that the shield attenuates the pressure blast from the origination by at least about 14.7 psi within a thickness of less than about 1 meter of the particulates of the shield,

wherein said spraying step comprises spraying the particulates with an average size of between about 0.01 mm and 1.0 mm.

10. (Original) A method according to Claim 9 wherein spraying particulates comprises spraying at least one of the group consisting of water droplets, sand, and polystyrene.

11. (Original) A method according to Claim 9 wherein spraying particulates comprises spraying a fluid from pipes disposed at a peripheral area of the protected area such that the shield extends substantially vertically downward and in a horizontal direction about at least a portion of the protected area.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 9 further comprising spraying the particulates such that the shield has a three dimensional packing factor of between about 0.001 and 0.01.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 9 further comprising spraying the particulates such that the packing factor generally increases in a direction from the origination of the pressure blast toward the structure.

15. (New) A pressure attenuation shield for attenuating a pressure blast and shielding a structure, the shield comprising:

a spray of attenuation material disposed proximate a periphery of the structure and between an origination of the pressure blast and the structure such that the shield attenuates the pressure blast by at least about 14.7 psi within a thickness of less than about 1 meter of the spray,

wherein said attenuation material comprises solid particles of at least one of the group consisting of sand and polystyrene.

16. (New) A pressure attenuation shield for attenuating a pressure blast and shielding a structure, the shield comprising:

a spray of attenuation material disposed proximate a periphery of the structure and between an origination of the pressure blast and the structure such that the shield attenuates the pressure blast by at least about 14.7 psi within a thickness of less than about 1 meter of the spray,

wherein a three dimensional packing factor of said attenuation material is between about 0.001 and 0.01.

17. (New) A method of attenuating a pressure blast to shield a protected area, the method comprising:

detecting a threat of a pressure blast; and

in response to the threat, spraying particulates to form a shield extending between an origination of the pressure blast and the protected area such that the shield attenuates the pressure blast from the origination by at least about 14.7 psi within a thickness of less than about 1 meter of the particulates of the shield, such that the shield has a three dimensional packing factor of between about 0.001 and 0.01.